

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01534 180958Z  
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TO USICA WASHDC  
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UNCLAS MASERU 1534

USICA

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SECSTATE FOR AF

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: N/A  
SUBJECT: U.N. SYMPOSIUM ON SOUTH AFRICA'S TREATMENT OF BLACKS

MASERU - REPRESENTATIVES OF 30 NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE MEETING IN MASERU IN A UNITED NATIONS SYMPOSIUM TO EXAMINE THE TREATMENT OF BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.

THE SYMPOSIUM GOT UNDERWAY MONDAY (JULY 17) AND IS PART OF A UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM TO MARK THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE YEAR 1978 HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AS INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR IN REFERENCE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL LAWS.

IN A KEYNOTE ADDRESS, DR. LEABUA JONATHAN, PRIME MINISTER OF  
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LESOTHO, DECLARED QUOTE SELDOM IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND HAS AN IDEOLOGY COMMANDED SUCH UNIVERSAL OPPROBRIUM AS APARTHEID NOR WRECKED THE LIVES OF SO MANY IN ITS SELF-RIGHTEOUS DEFIANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT IS INDEED AN IRONY OF HISTORY THAT TODAY WHEN WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LUMINARY VISION OF THE AUTHORS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THE ARCHITECTS OF APARTHEID ARE ALSO CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF THEIR MONUMENT OF

RACISM AND THE DENIAL OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. UNQUOTE

THE LESOTHO LEADER'S REFERENCE TO THREE DECADES OF RACISM RECALLED THE COMING TO POWER IN 1948 OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY, CURRENTLY DOMINANT IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE RACIAL LAWS AND POLICIES OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT FOR BLACKS ADOPTED UNDER THE PARTY'S AUSPICES. LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE SAW CHANGES COMING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. QUOTE FOR IT IS A REALITY THAT THE DEATH-KNOLL HAS BEEN SOUNDED FOR WHITE MINORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IF REASON PREVAILS IT WILL COME PEACEFULLY; BUT IF NARROW MINDS DICTATE POLICY IT WILL COME THROUGH VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED. UNQUOTE

THE LESOTHO LEADER DESCRIBED SOUTH AFRICA AS QUOTE AN IMPRISONED SOCIETY UNQUOTE. QUOTE A BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN UNQUOTE, HE SAID, QUOTE IS NEVER MORE THAN A STEP FROM THE PRISON DOOR. ONE IN EVERY FOUR ADULTS IS IMPRISONED EVERY YEAR. AFRICANS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE FACED WITH A WHOLE BATTERY OF LAWS THAT GOVERN EVERY FACET OF THEIR LIVES. A STROKE OF THE PEN CAN ROB THEM OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP AND DISPOSSESS THEM; THE WHIM OF A POLICE OFFICIAL CAN CONFINED THEM TO JAIL WITHOUT TRIAL. UNQUOTE

ON MIGRANT LABOR: QUOTE NOT ONLY IS THE AFRICAN BEING ROBBED OF THE WEALTH OF HIS COUNTRY OF BIRTH BUT HE IS ALSO BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A COG IN THE MOST EVIL MIGRANT WORKER SYSTEM THAT EXISTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THE MIGRANT WORKER OCCUPIES THE LOWEST RUNGS ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LADDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE ENJOYS NO CONTRACT TERMINAL BENEFITS. IN 1931 THE GAP BETWEEN THE WHITE WAGE AND MIGRANT'S WAGE WAS 11 1/2 TIMES. BY 1969 IT WAS TWENTY TIMES THE SIZE. UNQUOTE

ON CULTURAL INTERACTION: QUOTE (SOUTH AFRICA) IS BUSILY ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE WEDGES AMONGST ITS BLACK POPULATION TO DENY THEM THE RICHES OF CULTURAL INTERACTION. IT IS ALSO TRYING TO SHUT THEM OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD BY BANNING A WHOLE SERIES OF CULTURAL PRODUCTIONS WHOSE VALUE IS APPRECIATED BY MOST OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD. THROUGH BANTU EDUCATION IT HAS ESTABLISHED AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WHOSE SOLE OBJECTIVE IS TO CREATE AN INFERIOR CULTURAL PERSONALITY. UNQUOTE

ON APARTHEID: QUOTE APARTHEID IS A BLOT NOT ONLY ON SOUTH AFRICA BUT ON THE CONSCIENCE OF MANKIND. EVERY ACT OF APARTHEID BRUTALITY DIMINISHES ALL OF US. UNQUOTE

IN AN OPENING STATEMENT, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS PIERRE J. SANON SAID THE SYMPOSIUM WAS ASSEMBLED QUOTE NOT TO CONDEMN, BUT TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM. UNQUOTE

A REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES, ALSO KNOWN AS THE COMMITTEE OF TWENTY-FOUR, NOTED THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS VERY HIGH ON THE COMMITTEE'S AGENDA. IT ALSO DESCRIBED THE EFFORTS OF THE SO-CALLED WESTERN GROUP OF BIG FIVE NATIONS AND THE FRONTLINE STATES TO BRING INDEPENDENCE TO NAMIBIA AS MOVING ALONG SATISFACTORILY AND QUOTE MAY SOON BRING THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION (BY SOUTH AFRICA) TO AN END. UNQUOTE THE SYMPOSIUM WILL CONTINUE TO SATURDAY (JULY 22).BIELAK

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